

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Strength Breakdown of the Soviet Navy  
and the Soviet Pacific Fleet

DATE DISTR. 3 March 1959

2. Testing of Remote-Controlled Submarines

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Soviet naval strength

The report gives a strength breakdown of the entire Soviet Navy  
and a strength breakdown of the Soviet Pacific  
Fleet

observed the testing of remote-controlled submarines without  
crises in the northern seas. Some old submarines were fitted for this purpose,

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[redacted]

Data on the Soviet Navy [redacted]

The Soviet Navy is divided into various fleets known as "Flot" and at the end of spring, 1958 it was made up of the following units:

32 cruisers of varying tonnage;  
180 fleet destroyers;  
300 frigates;  
1,000 minelayers and minesweepers;  
125 coast guard vessels;  
500 motor torpedo boats;  
475 submarines;  
120 coast guard boats and <sup>rescue</sup> ~~minesweeper~~ boats.

[redacted] this number changes constantly because of de-commissioning of old units and commissioning of new ones. However, it should be considered correct on the whole, because [redacted]

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[redacted] the strength and power of the Soviet Navy is described.

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The new construction program includes a number of cruisers displacing 15,000 tons and having a speed of 35 knots. Furthermore, very fast destroyers with a speed of 38 knots are under construction.

Also under construction are the convoy escorts or frigates of 1,000 tons and a speed of 27 knots.

The MTB's under construction in European and Siberian yards have a speed of 40 knots. The old ones are being regularly replaced by the new, but the old (speed 35 to 38 knots) are kept in service as patrol and coast guard boats. The MTB's have a displacement of 50 tons.

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The submarine construction program is the most complex and deserves special attention. At present the 750-ton submarines are under construction, and they have a speed of 18 knots.

At the end of spring, 1958, there were 475 submarines in commission, but the program for 1958 provides for the construction of 75 to 85 new ones of the above class. Taking into account the older ~~classes~~ <sup>ones</sup> which <sup>surely</sup> will/be removed from service, [redacted] Russia will have 500 submarines in commission by the end of 1958.

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The icebreaker Lenin was launched in the Leningrad Shipyard in December 1957; it displaces 16,000 tons, has atomic propulsion, and will be stationed in the North Sea.

[redacted] has seen [redacted] tests of guided submarines without crews. Some old submarines were fitted for this purpose. [redacted]

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Regarding submarines, [redacted] they may be considered under the following headings:

- about 200 to 220 long-range having remarkable underwater speed;
- " 150 to 170 old ones which were recently refitted. Their speed is appreciably less than that of the new ones. The program provides for their decommissioning within two or three years;
- about 100 to 120 old or midget submarines used only in coastal duties.

At least half of these are of postwar construction (mostly midgets).

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Far Eastern Fleet

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At the end of October 1957, this fleet had the following naval vessels:

6 cruisers;

50 fleet destroyers;

35 destroyers;

200 minelayers (of which about half are minesweepers);

185 motor torpedo boats;

~~200~~ 35 fast boats armed with AA artillery;

135 submarine chasers;

150 coastal patrol boats;

125 to 130 submarines: more than half of these are of long or medium range, whereas the rest are mostly used for guarding shore and channels. Further, more than 20 are new and midgets.

This fleet has ~~more~~ about 1,200 aircraft, including MIG-17's,

~~an undetermined~~  
Furthermore, it has numerous fighter-bombers and a number of very new bombers.

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jointly  
exercises/with aircraft are held very frequently. All these exercises have the mission of repulsing an attack coming from seaward

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In addition, a number of submarines is always on patrol in the Pacific,

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